

Draft Minutes
Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Committee
Tuesday, January 12, 2021 | 9 A.M. - 11 A.M.

Electronic Meeting Only
Zoom Video Conference

Members of the Committee Present (Virtually):

Steve Ostler, Chair
Paula Plant, Vice Chair
Richard Ellis
Brigham Tomco
Louie Cononelos

Others Present (Virtually):

Margaret Bird (Higher Education Beneficiaries)
Jonathan Bates (University of Utah)
Tim Donaldson (Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Office
Director)
Mike Johnson (SITLA)
Peter Madsen (SITFO Director)
Chris Ogren (SITFO)
Scott Ruppe (SITLA)
Marissa Sittler (Utah Office of State Treasurer)
Kirt Slaugh (Utah State Chief Deputy Treasurer)
Jessie Stuart (Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Office)
Paul Tonks (Office of Attorney General)
David Ure (SITLA Director)

Meeting called to order by Chair Ostler at approximately 9 a.m.

1. Welcome

Chair Ostler opened the January 12, 2021 Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Committee meeting and read the written determination for holding an electronic only meeting with no anchor location.

2. Approval of Minutes

There were no comments to the November 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Plant made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with Mr. Cononelos seconding the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

Record of Vote:

Mr. Tomco: Aye
Ms. Plant: Aye
Mr. Ostler: Aye
Mr. Ellis: Aye
Mr. Connelos: Aye

There were no comments to the November 23, 2020 meeting minutes.

Mr. Ellis made a motion to approve the November 23, 2020 minutes with Ms. Plant seconding. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

Record of Vote:

Mr. Tomco: Aye
Ms. Plant: Aye
Mr. Ostler: Aye
Mr. Ellis: Aye
Mr. Connelos: Aye

3. Calendar and Confirmation of Meeting Dates

Ms. Stuart shared a document that contains key dates of meetings or presentations that the Advocacy Office would be party to. She shared the dates that she and Mr. Donaldson proposed for future Advocacy Committee meetings.

4. Committee Input

Chair Ostler invited anyone from the public who may be in the meeting to speak. There were no public comments for the meeting.

Chair Ostler invited any beneficiary stakeholders in the meeting to speak. There were no comments.

5. Protection & Advocacy Office Report

Mr. Donaldson stated that he has been building off the work that Mr. Atwater, Ms. Stuart, and Ms. Plant have done. In preparation for the 2021 legislative session, the Advocacy Office in coordination with Deena Loyola with SITLA are in the process of creating a unique, personalized handout for each legislator that reflects funds received for schools within their specific neighborhood, an overview of the trust system and growth of the fund. The Advocacy Office has had some form of contact with 51 of the 104 legislators. It is their goal to provide individualized handouts to all 104 legislators and try to make as much contact as they can.

Mr. Donaldson stated that he is very pleased about the collaborative efforts surrounding the trust system and legislative outreach efforts. The SITFO budget request and legislation were mentioned, in addition to the Inland Port tax increment issue. Mr. Donaldson emphasized the importance of collaborative big picture efforts. He introduced the "My Trust Story" project that the Advocacy Office is working on with Tim Phillips and Deena Loyola. In December, six individuals involved with the trust shared their stories, involvement, experience, and positive memories with the trust system on video. Mr. Donaldson indicated that the office will be working to create a social media presence to share the videos and to help with the public information of the trust.

The members of the Advocacy Committee were informed that the SITLA Nominating Committee will be meeting this year to find candidates to replace Chair Roger Barrus on the SITLA Board, whose term is expiring.

The Bears Ears national monument was mentioned with SITLA's involvement.

Mr. Donaldson expressed his gratitude for the good work Mr. Atwater did for the Advocacy Office and for Ms. Stuart.

Mr. Cononelos commended Mr. Donaldson and Ms. Stuart for their work. He inquired if the project could be taken down to the county commission level. He believes it would be very advantageous to filter it to the local level, as the school districts within the county boundaries have such importance. Mr. Donaldson agreed to look into this further after the legislative session.

Ms. Stuart shared the overview of the Advocacy Office Annual Report to cover activity of the trust system as a whole. In contrast to last year, the report showcases highlights of each agency. Ms. Stuart continued with an outline of the report. Ms. Stuart will be emailing digital copies to the committee. She noted that the office plans to present to the SITLA Board, SITFO Board, and USBE. The report will be sent to all beneficiaries, in addition to an individualized financial summary. Mr. Tomco and Chair Ostler expressed their support.

6. Committee Items

a) Annual OPMA/GRAMA Training

Paul Tonks with the Office of the Attorney General provided a GRAMA/OPMA presentation.

b) SITFO Legislative Items: Budget Request

Mr. Madsen, Director of SITFO, provided a presentation regarding the agency's budget request. Mr. Madsen addressed questions from the committee on this topic. Mr. Madsen stated that the SITFO Board of Trustees has all unanimously supported this effort.

Mr. Donaldson noted that Advocacy Office worked with the Office of State Treasurer and SITFO to create a two-page document to highlight the key points of the budget request. In addition, the Advocacy Office has been treating the request as top priority. Discussion was had regarding general practice regarding legislative matters and support.

Ms. Plant moved that the Advocacy Committee offer their support for the SITFO budget as it has been presented. Mr. Cononelos seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Record of Vote:

Mr. Tomco: Aye

Ms. Plant: Aye

Mr. Ostler: Aye

Mr. Ellis: Aye

Mr. Cononelos: Aye

Chair Ostler thanked Mr. Madsen and offered the committee's help. Mr. Madsen will provide a memo regarding other legislative items to Mr. Donaldson and expressed his gratitude for the committee.

c) School Children's Trust Legislative Items: Budget Increase Request

Ms. Plant stated that the School Children's Trust Section has been in a challenging spot relating to the website where the schools submit their recommendations and go through an approval

process before the funding is sent out to the schools. The problems of the website have been pushed down to the school level, which can take weeks to resolve and costs time for the principals. Ms. Plant commented that the situation is inappropriate, as the system that the principals are required to use should be responsive and functions properly. There have been a number of different sources that have been explored to find more responsive programming. The decision was made to bring it in-house to USBE with a new IT team. There were carryover funds from USBE that were able to bring the website in-house, which is targeted to be completed at the end of this fiscal year. However, there is not any current ongoing funding to support the website, which is what the budget increase request is intended for. Ms. Plant noted that they are trying to be responsive to a legislative audit that indicated they should not be asking people to enter the same number more than once. She stated that the requested funding for the ongoing maintenance of the site will come from the trust funds. Ms. Plant also stated that she will share a summary of legislation being pursued. Mr. Ellis made a motion of support from the Advocacy Committee for the budget request. Mr. Cononelos seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Record of Vote:

Mr. Tomco: Aye

Ms. Plant: Aye

Mr. Ostler: Aye

Mr. Ellis: Aye

Mr. Cononelos: Aye

Mr. Donaldson shared that a previously discussed budget increase of \$75,000 for the Advocacy Office to increase staffing for the office is no longer being pursued at this time.

d) Incentive Awards Policy

Mr. Donaldson presented to the committee an Incentive Awards Policy that has largely been adopted from the Office of State Treasurer. Ms. Stuart noted the policy has been approved by DHRM. Mr. Donaldson noted that the policy is fairly standard among state government agencies. Mr. Tomco made a motion to approve the Incentive Awards Policy with the modifications discussed. Ms. Plant seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Record of Vote:

Mr. Tomco: Aye

Ms. Plant: Aye

Mr. Ostler: Aye

Mr. Ellis: Aye

Mr. Cononelos: Aye

e) Other Items for Discussion

Mr. Donaldson stated that the purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for committee members to ask the Advocacy Office to look into any research topics, alternatives, or other items for a special project. Its intent is to facilitate input from the committee for the office.

7. Adjourn

Chair Ostler welcomed a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ellis made the motion, with all members voting in favor.

Record of Vote:

Mr. Tomco: Aye

Ms. Plant: Aye

Mr. Ostler: Aye

Mr. Ellis: Aye

Mr. Cononelos: Aye

Chair Ostler thanked everyone for their work.

The meeting was adjourned.